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SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1892.

PINKERTONS HEARD

The Noted Detectives Before the House Committee.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR ASK QUESTIONS.

Robert Pinkerton Replies to Each One in Order—The Story of the Homestead Riot Again Retold with the Connection of the Detective Agency Therewith—A Statement Submitted Giving the Other Side of the Case—A Non-Union Mill Goes on Sympathetic Strike—Palmer's Views Indorsed by the Strikers.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The house committee which is investigating the Homestead troubles had "Billy" and Robert A. Pinkerton before it yesterday. It also had present Devlin, Hayes and Wright, of the K. of L. who had a string of twenty-four questions they wanted the Pinkertons to answer. The committee considered the questions in executive session and concluded that it would use them, especially as the Messrs. Pinkerton had not the least objection to doing so. The first three questions were routine ones, as to the names of the members of the firm, locations of the offices, and nature of business transacted.

Getting to the Homestead Matter.

Questions four and five wanted to know how many guns, etc., the agency owned July 4, 1892, and where they were, and the number of persons in the agency's employ on same date, with names, etc. No. 6 wanted to know what authority the Pinkertons exercised over their employees—whether the men were required to go wherever ordered and perform whatever service, and in prosecuting this inquiry No. 7 asked for a copy of any contract with an employee in writing. Then No. 8 asks complete information as to the agreement with Frick et al. to perform service at Homestead.

The Men on the Barges.

This inquiry is prosecuted farther in Nos. 9 and 10 and Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 asked all about the number of men on the barges that went to Homestead, whether the barges were ironclad, why barges were used instead of the ordinary modes of travel, number of men on each, how the men got together at or near Pittsburgh, why there were so many firearms on the barges, whether the men were not instructed to take life if it were necessary to obtain possession of the works and variations of these points.

The Last Four Questions.

The twentieth question asked whether the Pinkertons knew that it was their duty to apply to court before they employed force. No. 22 asked whether the agency tried first to get the authority of the executive of Pennsylvania before "taking armed men into the state." No. 23 asked whether Pinkerton would not have the "same right to place 10,000 armed barges on the waters of the United States equipped," etc., as the Homestead barges were. The last question was as follows: "How many human lives have your employees taken since your agency first entered upon the business of supplying men to protect the property of corporations and employers against so-called 'strikers,' or to make effective so-called 'lock-outs'?" Robert Pinkerton testified first.

Replies to Five of the Queries.

Witness in reply to the first three questions said that the National Pinkerton agency was controlled by Robert A. and William Pinkerton, with their main offices in New York and Chicago. The former was operated by Robert Pinkerton and the latter by William Pinkerton. They also had six other branches in other cities. The nature of the business of the agency was to furnish watchmen to private business firms, race courses, fairs, etc. Replying to question four he said that the agency had about 200 rifles, 400 pistols, clubs, etc., deposited at Chicago. In reply to question five he said that the number of persons employed did not exceed 600 in all parts of the country, including clerks, stenographers, etc., and to the best of his belief, the number of men employed by them never exceeded 800 at one time.

AS TO THE MEAT OF THE MATTER.

What Is Required of the Men—The Homestead Affair.

To questions six and seven Pinkerton replied that the agency was simply an employer as regarded their men, who were required to be sober and industrious; the agency exercised no authority over its men except that if an employer, the men were not required to bear arms or to go where they were ordered, if the service did not suit them; by his lawyer's advice he refused to show a contract with one of his men. Coming down to the specific matter in hand he said the Carnegie company had asked for about 800 watchmen.

Queries About the Barges.

The company wanted the men by July 6, and they were supplied from New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, and knew what they were wanted for. He didn't believe the barges were ironclad, and would not have let his men go on them if he had thought they would be attacked. The barges were used because it was expected that they would be permitted to land upon the company's property without a breach of the peace. The sole purpose of the barge movement was to avoid meeting the strikers. Had the agency known that the men could not land without a fight it would not have moved without authority from the governor or sheriff.

Instructions to the Watchmen.

There were about 210 men, 230 rifles, and 300 pistols, ammunition and night clubs. All were under charge of F. H. Hines, a trustworthy, prudent, and reliable old employee of the agency. They met at Ashtabula, O., and were put on the barges at a point near Youngstown, O. Pinkerton replied to all the above questions in the freest and frankest manner, except as to the contract. Then he said in reply to question 18: "The arms on the barges were in boxes, and were destined for the yards and private property of the Carnegie company. Our positive instructions were that they should not be given to the men until after they had been sworn in by the sheriff, and we were assured that would be done upon the first signs of trouble. Our men were not to commit a breach of the peace, and there was no understanding that they were to with the Carnegie people or any one else. We would not permit the men to use force to recover possession of the works unless they had been sworn in by the sheriff."

"Some Other Points Answered." The men would not have fired had they not been attacked and six of their number killed; it was understood by the agency that the company had made due application to the authorities, and that the men were going to Homestead with the approval and consent of said authorities; the agency was advised by counsel that it had a perfect right to send watchmen from one state to another; it never sent an armed body anywhere; the principal deputy of the sheriff of Allegheny county went with the men to Homestead. As to the question of the right to send 10,000 barges, etc., Pinkerton said that was a question of law upon which he would not presume to instruct the committee.

Answer to Question No. 24.

In reply to the last question Pinkerton said: "In all our experience not a single instance can be cited where our men fired upon strikers except as a last resort to save their lives. In twenty years three men have been killed by our watchmen up to the time of the Homestead affair. In every instance they were sworn in as deputy sheriffs or peace officers, and whenever tried have been acquitted." His men went armed when on duty as peace officers or when defending life or property. He referred in reply to questions to a number of instances where his men had acted as guards for railways when strikes were in progress. If his men at Homestead had fired to kill they would probably have dislodged the mob.

Challenges the Labor People.

In reply to further questions Pinkerton said that he never knew of a strike where the labor organizations did not attack and injure non-union men. He could cite a number of cases where members of labor organizations were arrested and imprisoned for such crimes. He did not know of a single case where his men had begun the firing or trouble and challenged the labor people to show such a case.

Declined to Answer a Question.

He was asked if he ever detailed men to act as Knights of Labor, but declined to answer as that related to his private business. He believed that his men fired over the heads of the mob at Homestead, as if they had fired to kill there would have been greater mortality. William A. Pinkerton was next examined. He confirmed his brother's testimony, and said the agency did not seek employment in labor troubles—it was forced upon them.

Concludes the Testimony.

After a few more words from Robert Pinkerton the testimony was closed as far as the Pinkertons were concerned. Chairman Oates thanked the two brothers for their evidence, and Robert Pinkerton returned the compliment for the committee's kindness to them. He said he wished the committee could visit Chicago and examine the books and papers of the agency.

PINKERTON'S MAKE A STATEMENT.

They Tell in Writing their View of the Merits of the Case.

The Messrs. Pinkerton submitted to the committee in writing a statement of which the following are the salient points. The statement says that the men employed by the agency are selected with great care. No unreliable or untrustworthy men are employed; none have ever been convicted of crime. They are never permitted to carry arms except to defend life or property and would not have been sent to Homestead if assurance had not been given that they would be deputized as soon as it became necessary.

The Firing at Homestead.

The men did not fire at Homestead until Klein "had been murdered" and five other watchmen wounded. The strikers made a breastwork of women and children, and fired from behind them, yet not one of these women and children had been hurt. He then recited the treatment the men received after surrender in spite of the solemn promise of the leaders that they would be protected, and after giving instances of the brutality displayed the statement says: "The acts of the strikers, after our men surrendered, would be a disgrace to savages. Yet, because done in the name of organized American labor, sympathy, if not encouragement, is shown for such deeds by part of the press and by political demagogues."

The Principle That Is Involved.

The statement continues: "We do not shrink responsibility for any of our acts in this or any other strike. The coming murder trials ought to bring out the truth and uphold the law. The principle involved is of far more importance than are the merits of the present controversy between the Carnegie company and its workmen. We have no quarrel with organized labor, and they have no cause of complaint against us, except in so far as they attempt to destroy property and life, and to violate the law."

A Bias at Organized Labor.

"If the owners of mills, factories, mines, railroads and other valuable property cannot employ watchmen to protect life and property, then all capital so invested is practically at the mercy of secret labor organizations, whose tyranny and despotism exceed anything ever known in the history of the world. These societies intimidate whole communities by threats of murder, and are determined upon murder or destruction of property if their demands, no matter how unreasonable or impracticable, are not complied with."

What Strikers Have Done.

"Every large strike has shown that these

labor organizations will murder and destroy property out of sheer wantonness and revenge. During the Chicago Stove company's strike the strikers concealed explosives in a mould in order to cause explosions when the molten metal was poured in. During the strike of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad dynamite was put under trains by the leaders of the strike in the expectation that trains would be blown up and innocent passengers killed. During the recent strike on the New York Central obstructions were repeatedly placed on the track by strikers, and in one instance a train of cars filled with sleeping passengers was thrown down a steep embankment.

Cunning Piece of Atrocity Charged.

"In the city of New York, during the stonecutters' strike, strikers, in order to kill non-union men, unwound a part of the rope of a windlass, and during the night poured acid on the rope and rewound it, so that the next day non-union men might be killed in ascending by the falling stones. These fiendish acts were done by labor organizations in the promotion of their strikes. These are but a few instances where the strikers controlled by secret labor organizations have sought to murder and destroy property."

As They See the Homestead Situation.

"It was morally certain from the threats of the men themselves that the strikers at Homestead would resort to similar violence and attempt to destroy the property of the Carnegie company if any attempts were made to supply their places with non-union men. At the present time thousands of men would go to Homestead attracted by the high wages paid there, if they were assured of protection in the right to earn their living."

The Business of Watching Property.

"The business of watching and guarding private property is now extensively carried on in large cities in this country, not only by ourselves, but by many other reputable concerns. Thousands of banks, residences, warehouses, offices, stores, etc., are thus protected and guarded by private watchmen. If men cannot lawfully act as private watchmen in a large manufacturing plant, then it must follow that the bank or the private house, cannot be protected or guarded. It would, we think, surprise the community if it should be declared by congress that the right to protect one's property and to hire servants or agents to assist in so doing no longer exists in this country." The statement closes with the assertion on the authority of counsel that Pinkerton men and a right to go to Homestead as they did.

MORE TROUBLE FOR CARNEGIE.

The Non-Union Men at Duquesne Quit Work in Sympathy.

PITTSBURGH, July 23.—The employees of the Carnegie Steel company, located at Duquesne, about two miles from the Homestead works, about 600 in number, struck at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon in sympathy with the locked-out men at Homestead, leaving only the bosses to draw the last heat. Gov. Pattison left Homestead for Harrisburg yesterday afternoon. During his visit he did not enter the borough of Homestead at all, remaining in camp all the time, and when he left the train went through the mill yards.

Identified Hugh O'Donnell.

It seems that the Carnegie people intend to prosecute O'Donnell for murder. Yesterday he was lined up with a dozen other prisoners in the jail, and half a dozen detectives alleged to have been at the mill during the fight on July 6 went one at a time to see if they could identify any of the prisoners as having been present and active during the riot. It is said that they promptly recognized O'Donnell.

Lawyers and Strikers Disagree.

There is a well authenticated report that the strikers have fallen out with their counsel, Brennan, and that they will carry on the strike without legal help as far as possible. The cause is reported to be that the lawyers are against the prosecution of Carnegie, Frick, and others for murder and treason.

The Military Guard.

There is good authority for the report that all the soldiers will be withdrawn from Homestead in a short time except 1,000 volunteers, who will remain to the end. The strikers have issued an address counselling peace and good order in which they say that the most evident characteristic of the times is the centralization of wealth in the hands of a few, giving them despotic power.

Adopt Senator Palmer's Views.

The feature of the address is the adoption of the views expressed by Senator Palmer in his speech in the senate, so widely commented upon, with reference to the rights of workmen in large industrial concerns. The senator's views are almost literally adopted. They claim "equitable interests and rights" in the mill that "cannot be modified without due process of law" and propose to prosecute those rights. In the meantime they demand of congress and the legislatures a distinct assertion of those rights. The address closes with a pledge to refrain from violence.

Evictions and New Men.

Eviction notices were served on forty or fifty occupants of the houses on Shanty hill yesterday. The men can be evicted whether willing to pay rent or not. Forty or fifty new men arrived at the mills yesterday and it is said that the company has nearly 300 men there now.

Two More Mill Men Arrested.

O'Donnell and Ross had two of their fellow-workmen for company in the county jail last night. At a late hour Detective Jesse Morris came in from Homestead having in custody Matthew Foy, aged 55 years, father of William Foy, who was dangerously injured by a Pinkerton bullet, and Peter Allen, aged 50 years, whom he had arrested at Homestead on warrants charging them with murder. These are two of the fifteen men against whom Secretary Lovejoy made information.

Capital Union vs. Labor Union.

NEW YORK, July 23.—At a meeting held at the Astor House of the Associated Brick Company and Brick Barge Owners, the following resolution was adopted: That we will not submit to dictation by the Brick Handlers' Union or any other union; that, we who are owners of barges or vessels engaged in the brick carrying business, will hereafter employ only such men as will unload and deliver our brick to any party or at any place where they may be ordered by their employers or their agents.

The Base Ball Record.

CHICAGO, July 23.—Following are the League scores at base ball recorded yesterday: At Boston—Chicago 6, Boston 3; at New York—St. Louis 1, New York 9; at Brooklyn—Cincinnati 3, Brooklyn 6; at Baltimore—Louisville 8, Baltimore 18; at Washington—Pittsburgh 1, Washington 12; at Philadelphia—Cleveland 7, Philadelphia 1.

Illinois—At Rock Island—Rock Island-Moline 12, Jacksonville 2; at Rockford—Joliet 6, Rockford 9.

HEADLIGHT FLASHES.

A Woman Missed from a C. R. I. & P. Passenger Train—Other Railroad Notes.

The painters are at work on the C. R. I. & P. roundhouse and are quite a change in its appearance.

R. R. Cable's private car, which passed through the city Thursday was given a taste of fast running from Davenport west.

The C. R. I. & P. has a large number of new stock cars that have just been put on. They are said to be some of the best rolling stock on any of the western roads.

Engine No. 18 of the R. I. & P. was derailed at Coal Valley this morning and switch engine No. 3 was sent out to render assistance. All trains were delayed several hours in consequence.

There has been a perceptible falling off in both freight and passenger business on all the roads of late. Through passenger business to the west and north is very good, however.

On Thursday night Conductor Dedrick, of the C. R. I. & P., had a lady who had come in to Davenport put in his charge, being told by the conductor whom he had believed that she had acted rather strangely. The conductor, after leaving her, went through the train to collect, and on coming back found she had disappeared and could nowhere be found. When he reached the city he left her hat and some other articles that she had left in the train in charge of the ticket office here, and the police in Davenport were notified, but no trace of the missing woman has yet been found. It is not known how she could have escaped from the train, as she must have alighted after the train had started.

Improvements.

Ground has been broken by J. B. Zimmer on his property at the corner of Seventeenth street and Fifth avenue for a handsome double 2-story residence for which C. J. W. Schreiner has the contract. It will be of modern design with all the latest conveniences and will cost \$4,000.

John Gipeon expects to move into his new horse shoeing shop which he is having built just across from his present location on Seventeenth street, about the first of the month. It was designed especially for that business and will be a model of its kind, presenting a handsome exterior appearance. It will cost about \$1,200.

Death of a Railway Man.

PEORIA, Ill., July 23.—J. F. Keiser died yesterday of heart trouble at his residence in Havana, Mason county. He was for years connected with the Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville railroad, now the Jacksonville and Southern line, as treasurer and president. He was extensively known in railroad circles a quarter of a century ago.

The Mitchell Case.

MEMPHIS, July 23.—The evidence in the Mitchell case for the past few days goes to show that the claim that Alice Mitchell and Freda Ward did not care for men cannot be made good at any rate for a long time has been given proving that they were arrant flirts—would flirt with anybody, known or unknown, even married men.

Damage That One Owl Did.

KINGSTON, N. Y., July 23.—James Metcalf, of Mount Upton, found in one of his hen houses a monstrous owl of the hoot variety. The brood of fowls were either inside the owl or lying about with their heads bitten off. Upward of forty headless chickens lay scattered in view.

Terrible Volcanic Eruption.

LONDON, July 23.—The volcanic eruption on the island of Sangir in the Celebes sea is confirmed, but the loss of life is not so great as reported, though sufficiently awful. Between 2,000 and 3,000 persons perished, and the havoc to property was complete.



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